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**LAW ON NON-FORMAL ADULT EDUCATION AND CONTINUING LEARNING OF
THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

30 June 1998, No. VII-822
Vilnius

**CHAPTER ONE
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1. Purpose of the Law

This law governs non-formal adult education and continuing learning, the foundations for their structure, organization and funding. The purpose of the law is to provide legal guarantees to a person to implement his or her inherent right to lifelong development of his or her personality, to provide the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills, discover new meanings of life, to encourage not only the improvement of one's professional skills but also the creation of meaningful leisure, being an active member of a democratic society.

Article 2. Key definitions of the Law

1. **An andragogue**—a person who has acquired state-defined education and competences attesting to his or her ability to teach adults.

2. **Lifelong learning**—all learning activities of a person at any age in order to improve personal, civic, social and professional competences.

3. **Participants in non-formal adult education**—persons at the age of 18 or more who study in non-formal adult education programmes.

4. **A provider of non-formal adult education and continuing learning**—a school, a freelance teacher or another provider of education (a library, a museum, a University of the Third Age or another institution, company, organisation, as well as a legal entity or another organisation of the Member State or their departments established in the Republic of Lithuania, for which education is not the main activity), having the right to carry out non-formal adult education and continuing learning in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

5. **Non-formal adult education**—education in accordance with the interests of the individual and the society under various programmes that satisfy non-formal adult education needs,

enable qualification development and acquisition of additional competences for persons at the age of 18 or more.

6. **Informal education**—as defined by the Law on Education of the Republic of Lithuania.

7. **Continuing learning**—a part of lifelong learning that includes formal, non-formal and informal education, where a competence acquired by an individual can be recognised as a completed part of a formal education programme.

Article 3. Principles of non-formal adult education and continuing learning

Principles of non-formal adult education and continuing learning shall be as follows:

1) contextuality—non-formal adult education and continuing learning are closely linked to the economic, social, scientific and cultural development of the country, which leads to their updating and meeting of the ever-changing public needs;

2) equal opportunities—non-formal adult education and continuing learning are socially equitable, guaranteeing equal rights and opportunities for people regardless of gender, race, nationality, language, origin, social status, faith, beliefs or attitudes, age, sexual orientation, disability, ethnicity, religion; they ensure the availability of education and continuing learning for each person, facilitate the development of existing competences, qualifications or acquisition of new ones;

3) continuity—non-formal adult education and continuing learning flexibly respond to changes and take on good practices, enable lifelong learning;

4) effectiveness—non-formal adult education and continuing learning aim to achieve high-quality results through intelligent and economical use of available resources, application of various forms of organisation of non-formal adult education and continuing learning, continuous analysis, evaluation and planning of activities and effective management, i.e. appropriate and timely solutions.

Article 4. Goals of non-formal adult education and continuing learning

The main goals of non-formal adult education and continuing learning, based on the state's targeted policy on lifelong learning development, directions of activity and development guidelines, are to enable a person to:

- 1) satisfy the informal education needs;
- 2) develop creative powers and abilities;
- 3) acquire and improve general and professional competences;
- 4) become an active member of a democratic society.

SECOND CHAPTER

ORGANISATION OF NON-FORMAL ADULT EDUCATION AND CONTINUING LEARNING

Article 5. Organisation of non-formal adult education and continuing learning

The organisation of non-formal adult education and continuing learning shall include:

- 1) planning and implementation of non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
- 2) information and consulting of participants in non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
- 3) quality assurance of non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
- 4) monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
- 5) recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal education.

Article 6. Structure of non-formal adult education and continuing learning

Non-formal adult education and continuing learning shall include:

- 1) participants of non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
- 2) providers of non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
- 3) programmes of non-formal adult education and continuing learning.

Article 7. Relationship between formal and non-formal adult education

Schools offering formal education programmes:

- 1) may offer non-formal adult education programmes;
- 2) shall recognise competences acquired through non-formal and informal education in accordance with the procedure established by this Law and other legal acts;
- 3) shall, according to their competences, contribute to the quality assurance of non-formal adult education in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister of Education and Science;
- 4) shall provide information on their non-formal adult education programmes, the recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal education, and shall advise on these matters.

Article 8. Planning of non-formal adult education and continuing learning

1. The Government of the Republic of Lithuania (hereinafter referred to as the Government) approves the Non-Formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning Development Programme,

which establishes the main directions for the development of non-formal adult education and continuing learning. The Minister of Education and Science, after consulting with the Lithuanian Non-Formal Adult Education Board and other social partners, has approved the 3-year Action Plan for the Implementation of the Non-Formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning Development Programme.

2. The Municipality Council, taking into account the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Non-Formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning Development Programme, approved by the Minister of Education and Science, and the needs of the residents, employers and other social partners of the municipality, approves the municipality's Action Plan for Non-Formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning and assigns an implementation coordinator.

3. Non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes funded by the state and/or municipal budgets can be offered by non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers who have acquired such right in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister of Education and Science.

4. Qualification development for public servants and employees of other budgetary institutions can be offered by non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers who have acquired such right in accordance with the procedure defined by legal acts.

Article 9. Information and consulting of the public

1. Institutions authorised by the Ministry of Education and Science shall:

1) coordinate the information of adults on non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers, non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes, opportunities for funding non-formal adult education and continuing learning in Lithuania, consulting on such matters;

2) according to their competence, manage and supervise information systems used for adult education, the data of which are available to non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers, participants and other persons.

2. The institution authorised by the Municipality Administration shall organise information of the public on non-formal adult education and continuing learning and consulting on such matters within the municipality, enable non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers to publish relevant information on available non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes and ongoing events on the municipality's information systems.

3. Non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers shall publish relevant and up-to-date information on available non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes funded from the state and/or municipal budgets.

Article 10. Quality assurance of non-formal adult education and continuing learning

1. The quality of non-formal adult education and continuing learning shall be the responsibility of the provider of non-formal adult education and continuing learning and the institution implementing the rights and duties of its owner (a participant meeting).

2. The quality of non-formal adult education and continuing learning shall be ensured through its monitoring, research and self-assessment and external evaluation of non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers.

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3. The self-assessment of non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers funded from state and/or municipal budgets shall be carried out by the education provider by selecting self-assessment areas, methodology, analysing the self-assessment results and making decisions on the improvement of its activities. The procedure for the external evaluation of non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers funded from state and/or municipal budgets shall be determined by the institution implementing the rights and duties of the owner of state and municipal schools (a participant meeting), while that of other schools and education providers shall be determined by the owner (a participant meeting), taking into account the following areas of quality assessment: curriculum assessment, assessment of the publication of educational services, managerial/organisational assessment, project activities assessment, qualification assessment of the head and other employees of the education provider.

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Article 11. Recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal education

1. A general or a specific competence acquired through non-formal or informal education may be recognised as a completed part of a formal education programme (except for study program) in accordance with the procedure established by the Minister of Education and Science or as part of a study programme in accordance with the procedure established by the higher education institution.

2. A general or a specific competence acquired through non-formal or informal education may be recognised and legitimised in the manner prescribed by legal acts as a competence necessary for the performance of the work or function prescribed by law.

3. A general or a specific competence acquired through non-formal or informal education may be recognised and legitimised as a qualification corresponding to a certain level specified in the Lithuanian Qualifications Framework.

Article 12. Lithuanian Non-Formal Adult Education Board

1. The Lithuanian Non-Formal Adult Education Board is an expert advisory body that discusses the main perspectives and strategic directions for the development of non-formal adult education and continuing learning in Lithuania, and provides conclusions and suggestions on these matters.

2. The Lithuanian Non-Formal Adult Education Board shall be composed of (non-formal adult education and continuing learning) representatives of organisations representing the interests of state and municipal institutions, employers and employees, organisations representing other public interests. The Lithuanian Non-Formal Adult Education Board shall consist of 15 members.

3. The regulations of the Lithuanian Non-Formal Adult Education Board shall be approved by the Government, while its composition shall be approved by the Minister of Education and Science.

Article 13. University of the Third Age

1. A University of the Third Age is a non-formal adult education and continuing learning provider, its unit or a non-formal adult education and continuing learning programme providing non-formal education and continuing learning for older people and satisfying their knowledge, competence development and cultural needs.

2. In order to provide non-formal education and continuing learning for older people and to satisfy their knowledge, competence development and cultural needs, a University of the Third Age shall be eligible for state support through a public procurement.

Article 14. Andragogue profession

1. The purpose of an andragogue profession is to develop the learning ability of adults, thus increasing their employability, promoting entrepreneurship, constantly striving for knowledge for their own welfare and that of the society, and developing cultural competences.

2. The job description of an andragogue profession shall be approved and the procedure for the qualification development and certification of an andragogue shall be established by the Minister of Education and Science.

Article 15. Rights of participants in non-formal adult education and continuing learning

Participants in non-formal adult education and continuing learning shall have the right to:

- 1) receive free information on non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers and programmes as well as consultations on such matters;
- 2) select a non-formal adult education and continuing learning provider and programme;
- 3) adequate non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
- 4) receive funding according to the funding methodology approved by the Government for studying under non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes;
- 5) study leave in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts;
- 6) recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal education.

Article 16. Duties of providers of non-formal adult education and continuing learning

Non-formal adult education and continuing learning providers must:

- 1) enter into an education agreement with the participant in non-formal adult education and continuing learning if the non-formal adult education and continuing learning are financed from state and/or municipal budgets;
- 2) ensure adequate non-formal adult education and continuing learning to participants therein;
- 3) publish information on available non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes and provide the institution authorised by the Minister of Education or Science or the Director of the Municipality Administration coordinating adult information and consulting with information on available non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes funded from state and/or municipal budgets.

THIRD CHAPTER

FUNDING AND SUPPORT OF NON-FORMAL ADULT EDUCATION AND CONTINUING LEARNING

Article 17. Funding and Support of Non-Formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning

1. Sources of funding of non-formal adult education and continuing learning:
 - 1) funds from state and municipal budgets;
 - 2) employer's funds;
 - 3) funds of the participant in non-formal adult education and continuing learning;
 - 4) other funds.
2. Funds from state and municipal budgets shall be granted to:

1) fund the learning of adults studying in formal adult education programmes at adult general education schools, according to the “student basket” methodology approved by the Government;

2) fund the learning of adults studying in non-formal adult education and continuing learning programmes, according to the funding methodology approved by the Government;

3) institutions implementing the measures and actions of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Non-Formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning Development Programme.

3. Funds for the improvement of professional qualifications of public servants and employees of other budgetary institutions shall be allocated from state and/or municipal budgets by laws or ministers in the respective area in accordance with the procedure established by legal acts.

4. The employer that has allocated funds for non-formal education and continuing learning, qualification development of its employees may receive state support in accordance with the procedure established by the Government for partial reimbursement of the expenses incurred.

I am proclaiming this Law passed by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC VALDAS ADAMKUS

Amendments:

1.
The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Law
No. [XI-751](#),
13/04/2010,
the Gazette, 2010, No.
48-2301 (2010-04-27), ID 1101010ISTA00XI-751
The Law on Amending Article 13 of the Law on Non-Formal Adult Education of the Republic of Lithuania

2.
The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Law
No. [XII-1018](#),
10/07/2014,
published in the Register of Legal Acts on 22/07/2014, ID 2014-10429
The Law on Amending Law No. VIII-822 on Non-Formal Adult Education of the Republic of Lithuania

3.
The Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Law
No. [XII-2675](#),
11/10/2016,
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The Law on Amending Article 10 of Law No. VIII-822-822 on Non-Formal Adult Education and Continuing Learning of the Republic of Lithuania